

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A metering valve comprising:

a valve body defining a metering chamber having an inlet and an outlet;

an inlet valve adapted to be reversibly actuatable from an open to a closed position located at the inlet; ~~and~~

an outlet valve adapted to be reversibly actuatable from a dispensing to a non-dispensing position located at the outlet, wherein said outlet valve includes an outlet valve seat adapted to be in biasable contact with an outlet valve poppet; and

a magnetic actuating mechanism which is actuatable to move the outlet valve poppet out of contact with the outlet valve seat.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 1, wherein said inlet valve includes an inlet valve seat adapted to be in biasable contact with an inlet valve poppet.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 1, wherein the inlet valve is in the closed position and the outlet valve is in the non-dispensing position when the metering valve is at rest.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 1, wherein the inlet valve and the outlet valve are adapted to be independently operable.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 2, wherein the inlet and/or outlet valve poppet includes an incompressible material, and wherein the inlet and/or outlet valve seat includes a compressible material.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 2, wherein the inlet and/or outlet valve poppet includes a compressible material, and wherein the inlet and/or outlet valve seat includes an incompressible material.

Claims 7-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The metering valve according to claim 1 ~~16~~, wherein the outlet valve poppet is in the form of a ball, a mushroom, a cone, a disc or a plug.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The metering valve according to claim 2 ~~16~~, wherein the inlet valve poppet is in the form of a ball, a mushroom, a cone, a disc or a plug.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 1, wherein said valve body additionally defines a sampling chamber, and wherein the inlet is adapted to permit flow from the sampling chamber to the metering chamber.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 23, wherein the metering chamber is adapted to have a fixed volume.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The metering valve according to claim 23, wherein the metering chamber is adapted to have a variable metering volume.

Claim 64 (New): The metering valve according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism comprises a magnetically actuatable outlet mover adapted to move the outlet valve poppet out of contact with the outlet valve seat.

Claim 65 (New): The metering valve according to claim 64, wherein the magnetically actuatable outlet valve mover includes a magnetic material or a magnetically inductive material.

Claim 66 (New): The metering valve according to claim 64, wherein the outlet valve mover moves the outlet valve poppet out of contact with the outlet valve seat upon movement of the outlet valve mover from a first position to a second position, and wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism has an actuator element which is adapted to magnetically interact with the outlet valve mover to move it between the first and second positions.

Claim 67 (New): The metering valve according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism on actuation thereof magnetically interacts with the outlet valve poppet to cause said movement thereof.

Claim 68 (New): The metering valve according to claim 2, wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism is further actuable to move the inlet valve poppet out of contact with the inlet valve seat.

Claim 69 (New): The metering valve according to claim 68, wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism comprises a magnetically actuable inlet mover adapted to move the inlet valve poppet out of contact with the inlet valve seat.

Claim 70 (New): The metering valve according to claim 68, wherein the magnetically actuable inlet valve mover includes a magnetic material or a magnetically inductive material.

Claim 71 (New): The metering valve according to claim 68, wherein the inlet valve mover moves the inlet valve poppet out of contact with the inlet valve seat upon movement of the inlet valve mover from a first position to a second position, and wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism has an actuator element which is adapted to magnetically interact with the inlet valve mover to move it between the first and second positions.

Claim 72 (New): The metering valve according to claim 68, wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism on actuation thereof magnetically interacts with the inlet valve poppet to cause said movement thereof.

Claim 73 (New): The metering valve according to claim 68, wherein the magnetic actuating mechanism has a magnet element which is movable from a first position, in which the magnet element magnetically interacts with the outlet valve poppet to move the outlet valve poppet off the outlet valve seat, to a second position, in which the magnet element magnetically interacts with the inlet valve poppet to move the inlet valve poppet off the inlet valve seat.

Claim 74 (New): The metering valve according to claim 73 constructed and arranged such that when the outlet valve poppet is out of contact with the outlet valve seat, the inlet valve poppet is always in contact with the inlet valve seat.

Claim 75 (New): The metering valve according to claim 68 constructed and arranged such that when the outlet valve poppet is out of contact with the outlet valve seat, the inlet valve poppet is always in contact with the inlet valve seat.

Claim 76 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 1.

Claim 77 (New): An aerosol container according to claim 76, wherein the valve body of the metering valve is not movable relative to the container.

Claim 78 (New): An aerosol container according to claim 76, wherein the container contains a suspension of a medicament in a propellant.

Claim 79 (New): An aerosol container according to claim 78, wherein said propellant comprises liquefied HFA-134a, HFA-227, or carbon dioxide.

Claim 80 (New): An aerosol container according to claim 78, wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, fluticasone propionate, beclomethasone dipropionate, salts or solvates thereof and any mixtures thereof.

Claim 81 (New): An aerosol container according to claim 76, wherein the container contains a compressed gas.

Claim 82 (New): An aerosol container according to claim 81, wherein the container contains compressed air.

Claim 83 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 2.

Claim 84 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 21.

Claim 85 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 22.

Claim 86 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 23.

Claim 87 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 24.

Claim 88 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 25.

Claim 89 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 64.

Claim 90 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 65.

Claim 91 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 66.

Claim 92 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 67.

Claim 93 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 68.

Claim 94 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 69.

Claim 95 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 70.

Claim 96 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 71.

Claim 97 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 72.

Claim 98 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 73.

Claim 99 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 74.

Claim 100 (New): An aerosol container comprising a metering valve according to claim 75.

Claim 101 (New): An inhalation device for dispensing medicament to a patient comprising:

- a housing;

- an aerosol container, locatable within said housing, said aerosol container comprising a metering valve that comprises

- a valve body defining a metering chamber having an inlet and an outlet;

- an inlet valve adapted to be reversibly actuatable from an open to a closed position located at the inlet;

- an outlet valve adapted to be reversibly actuatable from a dispensing to a non-dispensing position located at the outlet, wherein said outlet valve

includes an outlet valve seat adapted to be in biasable contact with an outlet valve poppet; and

a magnetic actuating mechanism which is actuatable to move the outlet valve poppet out of contact with the outlet valve seat; and

an outlet valve trigger for triggering the movement of the outlet valve poppet out of contact with the outlet valve seat.

Claim 102 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 101, wherein the outlet valve trigger is triggerable in response to the breath of a patient.

Claim 103 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 102, wherein the outlet valve trigger is triggerable in response to the inward breath of a patient.

Claim 104 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 102, wherein the outlet valve trigger is triggerable at a trigger point which is coupled to the end of the exhalation part of a patient's breath cycle.

Claim 105 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 102, wherein the outlet valve trigger communicates with a sensor which senses the breath of a patient.

Claim 106 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 105, wherein said sensor comprises a breath-movable element which is movable in response to the breath of a patient.

Claim 107 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 106, wherein said breath-movable element is selected from the group consisting of a vane, a sail, a piston and an impeller.

Claim 108 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 105, wherein said sensor comprises a pressure sensor for sensing the pressure profile associated with the breath of a patient.

Claim 109 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 105, wherein said sensor comprises an airflow sensor for sensing the airflow profile associated with the breath of a patient.

Claim 110 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 105, wherein said sensor comprises a temperature sensor for sensing the temperature profile associated with the breath of a patient.

Claim 111 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 105, wherein said sensor comprises a moisture sensor for sensing the moisture profile associated with the breath of a patient.

Claim 112 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 105, wherein said sensor comprises a gas sensor for sensing the oxygen or carbon dioxide profile associated with the breath of a patient.

Claim 113 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 105, wherein said sensor comprises a piezoelectric or piezoresistive element.

Claim 114 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 101, wherein the inlet valve further comprises an inlet valve seat and an inlet valve poppet in biasable contact therewith.

Claim 115 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 114, further comprising an inlet valve trigger for triggering the movement of the inlet valve poppet out of contact with the inlet valve seat.

Claim 116 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 115, wherein the outlet valve trigger and the inlet valve triggers are both magnetic triggers.

Claim 117 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 116, wherein the outlet valve trigger interacts magnetically with an outlet shuttle contacting the outlet valve

poppet and/or the inlet valve trigger interacts magnetically with an inlet shuttle contacting the inlet valve poppet.

Claim 118 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 117, wherein the outlet shuttle and/or the inlet shuttle comprises a magnetic material.

Claim 119 (New): An inhalation device according to claim 117, wherein the outlet shuttle comprises a material which is magnetically inductive and the outlet valve trigger comprises an inductive element capable of inducing magnetism therein and/or the inlet shuttle comprises a material which is magnetically inductive and the inlet valve trigger comprises an inductive element capable of inducing magnetism therein.